

**NORTH KESTEVEN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR**

FOR THE YEAR

1949

LINCOLN :

DONCASTERS LTD., MINT LANE

NORTH KESTEVEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector for 1949

Chairman : MR. W. E. YOUNG, Branston.

Vice-Chairman : MR. G. W. HUTSON, North Hykeham, Lincoln.

Treasurer : NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK LIMITED, Lincoln.

Medical Officer of Health : DR. W. SHARRARD, The Avenue, Lincoln.

Clerk & Chief Financial Officer : MR. F. FOSTER,

Deputy Clerk : MR. WILLIAM EPTON, Solicitor, Lincoln.

Rating and Valuation Officer :

MR. A. ELKINGTON,

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

MR. J. CHADWICK,

Assistant Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector :

MR. J. K. M. WILLIS.

Council Offices :

31 Clasketgate, Lincoln,

Telephone No. 8617.

Surveyors — 10095

Pumping Station, Waneham Bridge,
Metheringham.

Telephone No. 230.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman act as *ex-officio* members of all Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council (except the Rating Committee).

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen.

As your Medical Officer of Health, I beg to lay before you my report of the Health and Sanitary conditions of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)	102,178
Population 1948	24,780
1949	25,240
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921	3,825
“ “ “ 1948	6,660
“ “ “ 1949	6,770
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921	4,301
“ “ “ 1931	4,931
Rateable Value (31st December, 1949)	£107,482 (+ 3,058)
Sum represented by a penny rate	£416 (— 15)

The usual pursuits were carried on in the District, as also Crop-drying, Flax manufacture and Pest Control, and a large Malleable Iron Works at North Hykeham ; the two latter have markedly enlarged in recent times, and are still expanding.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births—Legitimate	423	214	209	Birth Rate 17.9 (18.8)
Illegitimate	30	9	21	
Still Births—Legitimate	12	7	5	Rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	0	0	0	Total Births 25.8 (20.96)
Deaths... ..	285	148	137	Death Rate 11.3 (10.1)
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth				from sepsis 0 from other causes 1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—	Total	M.	F.
	16	10	6
Legitimate		9	6
Illegitimate		1	0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :—Total 35.3 (36.4)

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1
Diphtheria	0

Pneumonia was accountable for 3.9% of the deaths. Cancer 15.4%

Heart Disease 32.6% Tuberculosis, respiratory, .7% Influenza .7%

Infantile mortality is above that for England and Wales, but below 126 Great Towns.

GENERAL PROVISIONS of the HEALTH SERVICES in the AREA

These are substantially the same as in the year previous.

Beds still are scarce, however. Ambulance service both efficient and well used.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Salvage.—The following has been collected and disposed of by the Council during the year under the control of your Sanitary Inspector :—

	TONS	CWTS.	QRS.
Paper	18	9	2
Textiles	—	6	2
Iron and other Metal 2		9	—
Total Weight...	21	5	0
Total Value, £125 8s. 5d.			

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	497
Horses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	643
Beasts inspected	...	...	...	...	...	5
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	50
Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	...	149
Housing Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	104
Inspections on Complaint	...	...	...	...	...	129
Inspections <i>re</i> Nuisances...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Other Inspections under Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	119
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	30
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	15
Houses Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water Samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	48
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc....	...	...	...	...	...	16
Sewer Dykes	...	...	...	...	...	51
Visits <i>re</i> Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	684
Visits to Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	377
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	110
Houses in Course of Erection	...	...	...	...	...	1,004

Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Rural Housing Survey (Houses Inspected)	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Civil Building Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Visits to Military Premises used as dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Visits to Housing Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	338
Factories Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

Food Condemned							tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	3	27
Beast Offals	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	2
Horseflesh	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	—	—
Horseflesh Offals	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	4	3	8
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	3	10
Fruit Cake	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	2	10
Bottled Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	27
Tinned Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	10

Housing Generally

Since the end of the war and up to the end of the year the Council have had tenders approved for the erection of 364 permanent houses. 282 houses have been completed and of these 50 traditional houses and 42 Airey houses were completed during the year. At the end of the year 50 traditional houses and 6 Airey houses were in course of construction.

22 houses were completed by private builders during the year, making a total of 122 completed since the war. 20 private dwellings were under construction at the year end.

Water Supply

Work has nearly been completed on the supply of water to the Parishes of Thorpe-on-the-Hill, Eagle, Whisby, Doddington, Swinethorpe and North Scarle. All the Parishes in our District will then have a piped supply.

				<i>Direct Services</i>		<i>Pillar Fountains</i>	
				<i>No. of</i>	<i>Popl'n</i>	<i>No. of</i>	<i>Popl'n</i>
				<i>Properties served</i>	<i>served</i>	<i>Properties served</i>	<i>served</i>
Detailed Water Supply							
Auborn, Haddington and South							
Hykeham	...	...	...	139	478	24	82
Bassingham	...	...	...	99	343	25	84
Beckingham	...	...	...	45	154	28	87
Boothby Graffoe	...	...	...	35	119	—	—
Bracebridge Heath	...	...	...	406	1207	—	—
Branston and Mere	...	...	...	273	949	116	392
Brant Broughton and Stragglethorpe	...	...	...	99	310	51	177
Canwick	...	...	...	86	301	—	—
Carlton-le-Moorland	...	...	...	33	110	24	82
Coleby	...	...	...	79	292	30	103
Doddington and Whisby...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Dunston	...	...	...	56	193	60	208
Eagle and Swinethorpe	...	...	...	37	129	—	—

				<i>Direct Services</i>		<i>Pillar Fountains</i>	
				<i>No. of</i>	<i>Popl'n</i>	<i>No. of</i>	<i>Popl'n</i>
				<i>Properties served</i>	<i>served</i>	<i>Properties served</i>	<i>served</i>
Harmston ...	...	...	...	43	142	32	108
Heighington ...	...	...	...	162	551	59	205
Leadenham...	...	...	...	85	289	6	24
Metheringham ...	...	...	...	204	702	135	467
Navenby (includes Skinnand)	...	...	...	116	400	53	183
Nocton ...	...	...	...	32	111	22	75
North Hykeham ...	...	...	...	922	2980	—	—
North Scarle ...	...	...	...	27	94	—	—
Norton Disney ...	...	...	...	11	39	12	41
Potterhanworth ...	...	...	...	50	170	24	82
Skellingthorpe ...	...	...	...	365	1277	—	—
Stapleford ...	...	...	...	7	26	24	84
Swinderby ...	...	...	...	54	188	—	—
Thorpe-on-the-Hill (includes Morton)	...	...	...	60	210	—	—
Thurlby ...	...	...	...	11	40	6	24
Waddington ...	...	...	...	281	939	115	392
Washingborough ...	...	...	...	152	525	84	296
Welbourn ...	...	...	...	189	304	30	103
Wellingore ...	...	...	...	59	202	40	138

Samples taken from Public Supplies in 1949

<i>Nature of Sample</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
Chemical ...	2	—	2
Bacteriological ...	23	23	46

Of the above 23 unsatisfactory samples, 7 were taken from the Potterhanworth village supply which was unchlorinated. In each case a check sample was taken within a week or ten days and these proved to be satisfactory. Since the end of the year this supply has been chlorinated.

The remaining 16 unsatisfactory samples were taken from newly laid water mains in the Swinderby and North Scarle districts. These samples were unsatisfactory despite the fact that the new mains had been heavily chlorinated before being put into general use.

All the samples taken at Waneham Pumping Station, the source of supply were satisfactory.

Scavenging

The collection of household refuse has been extended to all our Parishes during the past year. 21 Parishes are by contract and the remaining 11 by direct labour.

Sewerage Schemes

No further advance has been made in the schemes for North Hykeham, Branston, Heighington, Washingborough and Waddington.

Public Health Act and Housing Act, 1936

22 Preliminary Notices have been served during the year. 21 Statutory Notices have been served and 19 have been complied with by the Owners.

The Council have carried out repairs to two cottages in default of one Owner to the amount of £14 0s. 0d.

3,924 inspections have been made in the District by your Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

Tuberculosis (New Cases in 1949)

						Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
						M.	F.	M.	F.
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	12	2	4	3
Non-civilian	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	1	3
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0	0

DISEASES						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	TOTAL DEATHS
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	Civ. 1 Non-civ. 2	3	11
Encephalitis Lethargia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	90	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	8	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	Non-civ. 2	2	—
Malaria (R)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

A non-civilian who was suspected of having small-pox caused quite a furore for a few hours until investigation and examination proved the case to be an obscure skin disease and not the terrifying alternative.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1.—**Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Number on Register, 74 ; Number of Inspections, 4.

2.—Cases in which **defects** were found—

Found, 1 ; Remedied, 1 ; Referred by H.M. Inspector, 1.

GENERAL REMARKS

The efficacy of Diphtheria Immunisation is being constantly affirmed by both figures of notifications of the disease and of deaths therefrom. Notifications were :—

1945	...	...	18,571	1947	...	...	5,508
1946	...	...	11,607	1948	...	...	3,578

A recent investigation of diphtheria immunisation in its summary stated that the drive for mass immunisation amongst young children has

achieved much success. 71% of the survey children had been immunised before they were two. Immunisation was more often carried out among the professional and salaried than among the poorer groups, and in all classes first children were more often immunised than subsequent ones. This rendered children in larger families, particularly in the working-class, more exposed to risk of infection both by contact with older school children and on account of the extreme overcrowding of many large families.

The afore-mentioned fact brings firmly to the fore the paramount need for New Houses and in far greater numbers.

The New Health Scheme to use a phrase one hears so much of these days is suffering from "full employment." People must discipline themselves and so save a wonderful ideal from destruction. Is it not possible that a good plunge on housing would have saved a good deal of the mental frustration now existent and so prevented the necessity for many demands on the health scheme, and certainly at an enormously less cost. Food and housing are at the root of positive health which is what the Health Scheme should really be aiming at.

Perhaps the extreme shortage of beds at the moment (and which seems unlikely to be ameliorated for a long time yet), will bring home to many people the necessity for continued education of the public in what might be called the Inspiration of the Home. The primary aim of the National Health Service must surely be to promote healthy development in the home in so far as the child is concerned. Improved and integrated general practitioner, infant welfare, school health and domiciliary consultant services are essential.

Tuberculosis, the Cinderella of the present scheme, demands our urgent consideration. Instead of spreading, as it is, one feels it should be really one of the diseases very presently due for extinction. But owing to the bed shortage, people who are potentially very dangerous to their near neighbours and relatives are often living cheek by jowl with these same relatives. *This must be remedied.*

With a population living to a greater age we must increase general knowledge of geriatrics. Older people must be encouraged to work to an later age than previously and to keep an interest in life in all its phases.

Our water supply is now being carried to the last remaining villages not previously supplied. **We can be truly proud of this great achievement.**

Our statistics continue to be good. Infantile mortality continues to decline, the death rate remains low, though a little higher than last year; the birth rate is high, and the population increasing steadily, but the increase in the birth rate has probably now well passed its peak.

The death rate from heart disease is almost 1 in 3, and from cerebral hæmorrhage increasing to 13.7% of total deaths.

We are steadily moving forward. We must not relax our vigilance, particularly in regard to housing and food in all its phases. Cleanliness in the handling and distribution of food has been sadly neglected of late, but must now return to our consideration—particularly in view of recurring polio-myelitis.

Your inspectors are doing a good job and I take this opportunity of again thanking them for their untiring efforts.

I have the honour to be, Your obedient servant,

W. SHARRARD.

APPENDIX I.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.		M.	F.
1 Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers ...			21 Bronchitis ...	9	6
2 Cerebro-spinal fever			22 Pneumonia (all forms)	4	7
3 Scarlet fever ...			23 Other respiratory diseases ...	3	1
4 Whooping cough			24 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	0	1
5 Diphtheria ...			25 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ...	0	1
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system...	2	0	26 Appendicitis ...	0	0
7 Other tuberculosis diseases ...			27 Other digestive diseases ...	1	3
8 Syphilis ...	2	1	28 Acute and chronic nephritis ...	3	4
9 Influenza ...	2	0	29 Puerperal sepsis		
10 Measles ...			30 Other maternal causes ...		1
11 Ant. Polio-Myelitis			31 Premature birth	2	1
12 Ac. Inf. Encephalitis			32 Congenital malformations, etc. ...	5	3
13 Cancer of bucc. cavity and uterus	2	3	33 Suicide ...	3	1
14 Cancer—Stomach and duodenum ...	2	1	34 Road Traffic Accident ...	1	0
15 Breast ...		3	35 Other violence ...	5	4
16 All others ...	18	15	36 All other causes ...	13	7
17 Diabetes ...	0	1			
18 Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc. ...	15	24			
19 Heart disease ...	51	42			
20 Other circulatory diseases ...	5	7			
			All causes ...	148	137

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—Total ...	M.	F.
Legitimate ...	10	6
Illegitimate ...	9	6
	1	0
Live Births—	M.	F.
Total ...	223	230
Legitimate ...	214	209
Illegitimate ...	9	21
Stillbirths—Total ...	7	5
Legitimate ...	7	5
Illegitimate ...	0	0
Population ...	(civilian)	25,240
	TOTAL	28,390

APPENDIX II BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1949.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population									Rate per five 1,000 Births	
	Live Births	Still-births	All Causes	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fever	Small-pox	Tuberculosis	Acute Polio Myelitis	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	16.7	.39	11.7	0.00	0.00	.45	.01	.51	.01	.00	.15	3.	32
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	18.7	.47	12.5	0.00	0.00	.52	.02	.56	.02	.00	.15	3.8	37
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	18	.40	11.6	0.00	0.00	.42	.02	.49	.01	.00	.14	2.4	30
London	18.5	.37	12.2	0.00	0.00	.52	.01	.59	.01	.00	.11	1.7	29
NORTH KESTIVEN.....	17.9	.48	11.3	0.00	0.00	.08	.00	.44	0.00	0.00	.08	2.2	35.3

